



***Infopack***

***Power to participate!***  
***- seminar about youth participation***

***30.9.2025-4.10.2025***

***Youth Centre Villa Elba***

***Kokkola, Finland***



# ***Power to participate!***

## ***- seminar about youth participation***

**30.9.2025-4.10.2025**

How can we support young people in becoming active citizens and confident changemakers? Power to participate!- seminar brings together youth work professionals from across Europe to explore concrete tools and methods for strengthening youth participation and advocacy skills. Through hands-on workshops and inspiring practices like Finland's "Impact! Days" and the "Playful Democracy" project, we'll dive into creative, inclusive approaches that empower young people to influence decisions and shape their communities. Come connect, learn, and co-create a more participatory future!

The seminar will be held in Youth Centre Villa Elba, in Kokkola Finland on 30.9-4.10.2025 (30.9. arrival day and 4.10. departure day). We are inviting 3 participants/organization.



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### ***Contact information:***

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## *Villa Elba*

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Youth Centre Villa Elba is a National Youth Centre supported and observed by the Ministry of Education. We are specialised in youth work and our function is to develop the methods used in the field of youth work. We work under the Finnish law covering youth work and by the Ministry of Education.


Our goal is to offer youngsters the possibilities of learning in multicultural environment and finding their own strengths and abilities through international activity.

Our work consists of international mobility for young people and those working with young people, voluntary services, training courses, International Club activities, advice and guidance on international programmes, project activities and coordination of volunteering projects.



[www.villaelba.fi/en](http://www.villaelba.fi/en)

# Preliminary programme

TUESDAY 30.9.	WEDNESDAY 1.10	THURSDAY 2.10	FRIDAY 3.10.	SATURDAY 4.10.
<b>ARRIVALS</b>  Arrival of participants / Check-In and accommodation in Youth Centre Villa Elba, Sannarannantie 60, 67200 Kokkola, Finland ( <a href="http://www.villaelba.fi/en">www.villaelba.fi/en</a> )	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
	Opening - Who are we?	Diving in to participation	Field visit day	<b>DEPARTURES</b>  
	09:30-12:00 Welcome and Get to know each other	09:30-10:30 Welfare region's Youth Council presents	09:30 Visit to Democracy School	
		11:00-12:00 Discussions on Youth representative democracy		
	12:00-13:00 Lunch	12:00-13:00 Lunch	12:00-13:00 Lunch at the City	
	13:00-14:00 Free time & (collecting travel documents etc.)	13:00-14:00 Free time	Free time at the city. Possibility to visit Nature museum	
	14:00-15:00 Chaos Game on the topic of youth participation	14:00-15:30 Tool fair on Youth participation		
	15:00-15:30 Coffee break		Returning to Villa Elba	
	15:30-17:00 Marketplace of organisations	15:30-16:00 Coffee break	15:30-16:00 Coffee break	
		16:00 Reflect, connect, cooperate	16:00 Evaluation of the week	
	Evaluation of the Day	Evaluation of the Day	Packing time	
Welcome and accommodation	18:00-19:00 Dinner	18:00-19:00 Dinner	18:00-19:00 Dinner	
Dinner	Evening at Kota	Finnish night: bilateral talks and SAUNA evening	Farewell evening	
Free time				



## Travel support:

	<b>Non- green travel:</b>	<b>Green travel:</b>
10 – 99 km	28 €	56 €
100 – 499 km	211 €	285 €
500 –1999 km	309 €	417 €
2000 – 2999 km	395 €	535 €
3000 – 3999 km	580 €	785 €
4000 – 7999 km	1188 €	1188 €
8000 -> km	1735 €	1735 €



**Please notice that accommodation is booked between 30.9.-4.10. Please schedule your travels so that you would arrive on the arrival day the 30th of September. You will need to check out on 4th latest at 12.00.**

Travel grants are paid according to the funding rules of Erasmus+: Travel grants depend on the length of the journey, and for measurement of the journey we use Erasmus+ distance band calculator: [https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/distance-calculator_en).

We also recommend to consider travelling sustainably if you have the possibility. There are train connections for example from Copenhagen to Stockholm or from Berlin to Tallinn. You can also travel one way with the flight and the other with trains and boats.

Travel grant is paid by bank transfer only after the participant has filled in the EU-survey and given all the needed travelling documents (travel tickets, boarding passes, invoices).

Villa Elba organizes transportation from Kokkola train station/airport to Villa Elba. This transport cost is covered from the travel grant. Please notice that the transportation from Kokkola airport to Villa Elba can cost around 80€ and from the Kokkola train station to Villa Elba around 30€. If you arrive during reasonable hours 8-20.00 we might be able to pick you up and costs are less.

## ***Tips for travelling to Kokkola:***

The participants can search for flights to Helsinki or directly to Kokkola. The best way to travel to Kokkola from Helsinki is by train, timetables and prices at: [www.vr.fi/en](http://www.vr.fi/en). Note: Try to book flight arriving in Helsinki until 17:30, otherwise travel to Kokkola with the train will get difficult! The earlier you book the train ticket the cheaper they are. There is also one very cheap bus connection <http://www.onnibus.com/en/index.htm>, but this runs only once a day and the ride is very long (approx. 7 hours).

### ***What to bring along:***

- Comfortable clothes and shoes. We can be partly outdoors, and temperature can be already quite chilly
- Personal medication and hygiene products
- Swimming suits if you want to wear them in sauna or want to go to swim

Partners with good practices are welcome to share them during the seminar. You can fill in the registration form, what kind of know-how and practises you could share. Please also be prepared to present your organisation briefly. If you can, bring some visual material to put on a table to show from your organisation. On Tuesday evening we are having an Intercultural evening so you are welcome to bring something from you culture (traditional snacks, music, etc.), if you want.

### ***Weather***

The seminar takes place in the autumn, but the weather can be anything from +5--10C. So take warm clothes with you. Bring comfortable outdoor clothes and shoes since programme can be partly outdoors and maybe you want to explore the nature during free time. For detailed weather forecast, please check: <http://www.foreca.fi/Finland/Kokkola?frontpage>





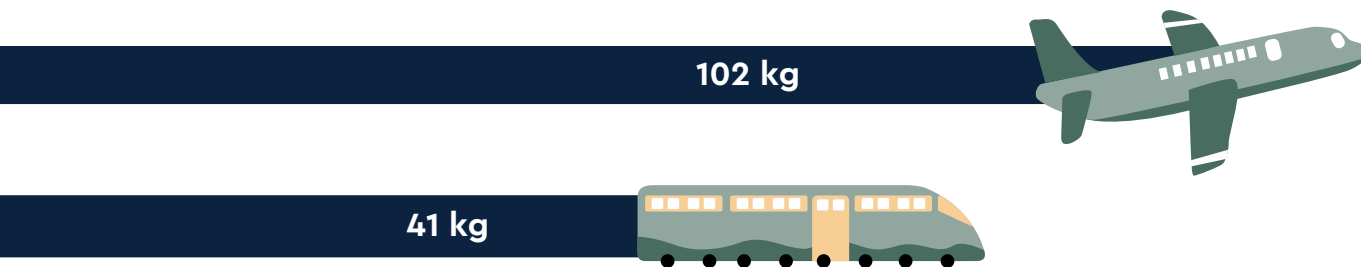
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# ***Tips for travelling to Kokkola:***

## ***How to get to Kokkola:***

**We encourage groups to use green means of transportation,** for example with Interrail ticket (more information: <https://www.interrail.eu/en>), but we understand that it might be difficult for some people. If you have to fly to Helsinki, please remember about sustainability and pay extra fee for CO2 emissions.

### **CO2 EMISSIONS IN COMPARISON \***



**TRAVELLING BY TRAIN WILL LOWER YOUR CO2 EMISSIONS BY MORE THAN HALF**

**\* 1000 KILOMETERS**

From Helsinki Airport the most convenient and green way to travel to Kokkola is by train. You can find tickets here: <https://www.vr.fi/en>

**! We recommend to buy tickets in advance because prices are increasing dramatically closer to departure day**

If you are taking train from Helsinki Airport, then on your way there will be one short transfer at Tikkurila station. Please, be very careful and check all the information: train track number etc. in order not to miss the train. There are displays everywhere as well as information via speakers.

# Accommodation

Accommodation is arranged in Villa Elba in cottages, Old Villa and Lassela. Towel and bed linen are included, so there is no need to bring them along.



## Cottages

Two atmospheric sailor's huts and four cosy cottages. The sailor's huts fit 8 people each and the cottages have two 4 person rooms. All cottages are uniquely furnished and have a toilet, shower, kitchenette and TV.



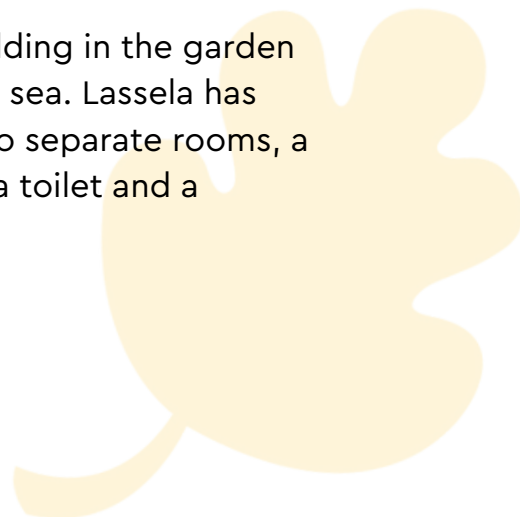
## Old Villa

The charming mansion Old Villa offers upstairs accommodation for 12 people in four different rooms and downstairs facilities for meetings and parties. The villa has a kitchen and toilet, but no shower (the shower can be found in the nextdoor sauna-building 'Helmi')



## Lassela

Lassela is an old villa building in the garden of Villa Elba, right by the sea. Lassela has beds for 12 people in two separate rooms, a small kitchen, a lounge, a toilet and a shower.





## *Practical arrangements:*

We serve breakfast, lunch, coffee break, dinner and evening snack. Inform about your special diets and allergies in the registration form. The kitchen in Elba makes special food only for those who order it, and that is why it is not possible to choose between vegetarian and other dishes. You must cover extra coffee, drinks or snacks.

### Alcohol & smoking:

Smoking is allowed only during free time but only at the smoking area. We do not sell either cigarettes or alcohol at the centre. Drinking alcohol in public areas in Finland and in Villa Elba is not allowed.

### Fragrance-free space

To ensure a comfortable environment for everyone, our youth centre is a fragrance-free space. We kindly ask all participants to avoid using strong perfumes, scented products, or fragrances during their stay. This helps make the space more accessible and enjoyable for all.

### Registration form:

Each participant must fill in the registration form. Participants should fill online registration form in the following address. Only participants pre-selected by the sending organisation should fill in the registration:

**<https://s.zef.fi/e6ulfybz/>**



*See you in Villa Elba!*

